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ACTIVITIES ON THE ISSUE OF EAST TIMOR

1. The Diet Members Forum on East Timor

The Forum was established in November 1986 as a supra-partisan association of Diet members to re-examine Japan's policy with respect to the East Timor issue. AKIYAMA Chozo (House of Councilors), KUBOTA Manae (House of Councilors), and TANABE Makoto (House of Representatives) have served successively as Forum representatives. EDA Satsuki (House of Representatives), who attended the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization in August 1986, served as general-secretary of the Forum until November 1993, when OKAZAKI Tomiko (House of Representatives, Parliamentary Vice Education Minister) took over the post. There are at present 67 Forum members.

Present Forum Officers

Representative : TANABE Makoto (H of Rep., Socialist Party, Former Chairperson)
Directors : CHUMA Koki (H of Rep., Liberal Democratic Party)
OKADA Katsuya (H of Rep., New Frontier Party)
EDA Satsuki (H of Rep., New Frontier Party, formerly representative of Social Democratic League)
WADA Takayoshi (H of Coun., New Frontier Party)
TAKEMURA Yasuko (H of Coun., Socialist Party)
FURUGEN Saneyoshi (H of Rep., Communisty Party)
ITOH Eisei (H of Rep., New Frontier Party)
NISHIGORI Atsushi (H of Rep., Sakigake Party)
INOUE Tetsuo (H of Coun., Democratic Reform Party)
KAIEDA Banri (H of Rep., Alliance of Democratic Reformers)

Advisors : KUJIRAOKA Hyosuke (H of Rep., Liberal Democratic Party)
DOI Takako (H of Rep., Socialist Party, Former Chairperson, Speaker of the House of Representatives)
KUBOTA Manae (H of Rep., Socialist Party)

General-sect. : OKAZAKI Tomiko (H of Rep., Socialist Party, Parliamentary Vice Education Minister)

2. Activities

(1) Providing Information

Relevant information on the situation in East Timor and on actions by the United Nations and other nations on the issue (e.g. actions by the UN Human Rights Commission, the Sub-

commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, International Court of Justice, and the talks between the Portuguese and Indonesian foreign ministers under the auspices of the UN Secretary-general) are prepared in the form of written reports and distributed to Forum members.

(2) Contacting the mass media

Information is also made available to the mass media, and press reports in Japanese and English are issued on important matters.

(3) Organizing lectures

Lectures for members are arranged at which informants with pertinent information and insights on the issue are invited to speak. These lectures are sometimes co-sponsored with the Amnesty International Diet Group. Lecturers in recent years include:

Nov. 1991	James Dunn, (former Australian consul in East Timor)
Feb. 1992	Bob Muntz (worker with the Australian NGO, Community Aid Abroad, witness to the Santa Cruz massacre) (jointly sponsored by the Amnesty International Diet Group)✱
Nov. 1992	Ana Inacio and Wewerian Dos Reis (East Timorese women)
Nov. 1993	Mari Alkatiri (FRETILIN, International Affairs Dept.)
May 1994	Max Stahl (photo journalist who filmed the Santa Cruz massacre and made the British TV documentary, "Cold Blood", broadcast in Japanese on NHK satellite TV) (jointly sponsored by the Amnesty International Diet Group) ✱
Nov. 1994	Joao Antonio Dias and Aviano Antonio Faria (witnesses to the "second massacre" of the wounded after the Santa Cruz massacre that took place in the Wira Husada Military Hospital. Both testified before the 1994 UN Human Rights Commission.) ✱

(4) UN-related activities

1. UN Human Rights Commission

Forum representatives meet with Foreign Ministry officials (Human Rights and Refugee Division, Multilateral Co-operation Department, Foreign Policy Bureau) to submit proposals for the Human Rights Commission resolutions or consensus statements on the East Timor issue. Last year Forum Representative Tanabe met with Foreign Minister Hata.

The submission that was made on February 2 this year proposed that the following points be included by the Commission in its resolution/consensus statement this year:

* That the Indonesian Government implement the resolutions and consensus statements that have been adopted to date. (Visits to East Timor by the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Working Group on Disappearances, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions and the release of political prisoners have yet to be realized.)
* A new point: Urge the Indonesian Government to allow freedom of speech with regard to the East Timor issue in the Asian region, in Indonesia, and in East Timor. This point is

raised out of concern for the new wave of repression of freedom of speech which has emerged with the rising interest in the East Timor issue in Indonesia and the Asian region as a whole. (Examples include pressure by the Indonesian Government on the Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor (APCET), an international meeting of NGOs held in Manila in May 1994, pressure on Indonesians who express views on the East Timor issue which differ from those of the Indonesian Government, continuing repression of East Timorese providing information on the situation to the outside world, and the breaking up of a meeting in April 1994 in Jakarta of Indonesian scholars, NGOs, and the governmental commission on human rights.)

2. UN Special Committee on Decolonization

The Forum sends representatives to the hearings on East Timor by the Special Committee on Decolonization which is held at UN Headquarters in New York. Members who have presented submissions to the Committee are EDA Satsuki (House of Representatives), YAMADA Kozaburo (House of Councilors), NAKANISHI Tamako (House of Councilors), and TAKEMURA Yasuko (House of Councilors). The Forum members use this opportunity to meet with concerned parliamentarians from other countries and to exchange views with the Japanese Ambassador to the UN and the Japanese Consul. In 1990 Representative Takemura met with the UN Under-secretary-general in charge of the East Timor issue.

3. United Nations Secretary-general

* Meeting with UN Secretary-general

In March 1991 OKAZAKI Hiromi (House of Representatives) went to New York to meet with Secretary-general de Cuellar, together with Lord Eric Avebury (House of Lords, Chairman, Parliamentary Human Rights Group in England), Rob van Gijzel (Dutch parliamentarian), Garrie Gibson (Lower House, Australia), and two Portuguese MPs to ask that negotiations on the issue be held between the interested parties, including the East Timorese.

* Joint Letter with US Congress Members

On Sept. 22, 1992, 150 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and 143 members of the Japanese Diet sent a joint letter to UN Secretary-general Boutros Ghali, calling on him to set up a concrete framework for a solution to the issue. The letter requested the Secretary-general to make public the report of Special Envoy Amos Wako, to send a team to East Timor to monitor the human rights situation, to urge Indonesia to implement the 1992 UN Human Rights Commission Consensus Statement, to inititate the holding of negotiations between the interested parties, including representatives of the East Timorese, and to create a concrete framework for holding a popular referendum to allow the people of East Timor to exercise their right of self-determination.

* In addition, the Forum has sent letters to the Secretary-general when he has visited Japan, expressing appreciation of his mediating efforts and explaining actions in Japan on the issue.

(5) Visits to the Indonesian Embassy and Meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister

Forum members visit the Indonesian Embassy when appropriate to request improvement in the human rights situation in East Timor. Members met with Foreign Minister Ali Alatas in February

1992 when the latter came to Japan to explain his government's stance on the Santa Cruz massacre.

(6) Visit to East Timor

Five members, CHUMA Koki (House of Rep.), OKAZAKI Tomiko (House of Rep.), KANEDA Seiichi (House of Rep.), KAIEDA Banri (House of Rep.), and TAKEMURA Yasuko (House of Coun.) visited Indonesia and East Timor last year from August 9 to 14. In Jakarta they met with Foreign Minister Alatas and Speaker of the House Wahono. They also conferred with the Joint Committee for the Defense of East Timorese, a human rights organization composed of lawyers and religious leaders. They were not permitted to visit imprisoned resistance leader, Xanana Gusmao (the group was carrying a letter for Xanana from Speaker of the House DOI Takako), or Fernando Araujo (sentenced to nine years in prison for subversion for sending information on the human rights situation to Amnesty International, etc.)

In East Timor the Diet members went first to Santa Cruz cemetery where they laid memorial offerings of *origami* cranes they had brought from Japan. In Dili the Diet members met with Governor Soares, the head of the military hospital, the regional military commander, members of the provincial assembly, youth groups, etc. In Bali they met with the commander of the 9th regional military command, Major-genral Ruchiatna. Through arrangements made directly from Japan they managed to meet with Bishop Belo and other Catholic Church persons. However they were not allowed to visit the university, International Red Cross, the family planning center, prison, or anywhere other than Dili.

A curfew was imposed before the Diet members visit, and many people were taken into preventive custody. Also, the Forum was later told that students who had made contact with journalists accompanying the Diet members were afterwards arrested. The Diet members submitted an official report on their visit to the Foreign Ministry on October 12. The NHK and Asahi Television stations who had crew accompanying the Diet members reported the visit and used the footage in documentaries on East Timor.

The Diet Forum had requested a visit to East Timor in June 1991, but were not permitted to go at that time.

(Other)

* Requests to the Government to raise the issue of human rights at the annual aid donors conference (Consulative Group on Indonesia)

* Meetings with Prime Minister Murayama and Foreign Minister Kono last November to request that they raise the issue of East Timor with President Suharto and Foreign Minister Alatas at the time of the APEC meeting in Indonesia

* Nomination of Bishop Belo for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, 1994 and 1995

KOMITE BERSAMA UNTUK PEMBELAAN MASYARAKAT TIMOR TIMUR
JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENCE OF EAST TIMORESE

Secretariat Address:
c/o **ELSAM** Jalan Mesjid IV / 4 Pejompongan, Jakarta 10210 Indonesia. Phone / Fax (6221) 5734744

Background

The Joint Committee for the Defence of East Timorese was formed in response to the incident widely referred to as the "12 November 1991 Incident" and the subsequent march of student demonstrators on the embassies of Australia and Japan and the UN Representative Office in Jakarta on 19 November 1991.

The two above-mentioned "Incidents" resulted in the detention and trial of a large number of East Timorese (including university students) in both Dili and Jakarta.

The accused in both Dili and Jakarta contacted the Legal Aid Institute in Jakarta requesting its legal representation in the trials.

On the basis of these developments and a belief in the defendants' need for serious legal assistance and defence (including humanitarian support), on 4 February 1992 the Joint Committee for the Defence of East Timorese, comprising the Legal Aid Institute Foundation, Parpem PGI (Protestant) and the Institute for Social Research and Development - Indonesian Bishops' Conference (LPPS - KWI - Catholic), was formed. Membership of the Joint Committee has expanded with the involvement of the International Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM) and the Jakarta Chapter of the Legal Aid Institute.

Activities

a. To provide free legal assistance to East Timorese convicted with political crimes in both Dili and the other places in Indonesia.

b. To provide financial assistance to tertiary students whose political activities have resulted in the stopping of government scholarships and to young people whose parents are being tried or serving senteces in Dili.

c. To provide humanitarian assistance in the form of food, medication and clothing, for those in prison.

d. Extending aid for small business activities for the families of political prisoner.

e. To collect and disseminate information on the situation in East Timor as it relates to the Committee's advocacy work/activities.

In view of their importance, legal assistance and other forms of advocacy are the main focus of the Committee's activities.

Organisation

Chairman:	**Abdul Hakim G. Nusantara SH, LLM (ELSAM)**
Secretary:	**Asmara Nababan, SH (Parpem PGI)**
Treasurer:	**Ade Rostina Sitompul (Parpem PGI)**
Daily Coordinator:	**Luhut MP Pangaribuan SH, LLM (LBH Jakarta)**
Members:	**Mgr Hardaputranta SJ (LPPS KWI)**
	Mrs Irma Immaculata (LPPS KWI)
	Rev F.W. Raintung (Parpem PGI)
	Hendardi (YLBHI)
	Bambang Widjayanto, SH (YLBHI)
	Dr Iskandar (LPPS KWI)
	Drs. Eko (LPPS KWI)
	Gustaf Dupe, SH (Parpem) PGI)
Secretariat Staff:	**Herbin M. Siahaan, SH**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DIET OF JAPAN

1-7-1, NAGATA-CHO,
CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO

To the Norwegian Nobel Committee

Nomination of Bishop Carlos Belo for the Nobel Peace Prize

We are elected representatives to the National Diet of Japan who regard peace and human rights issues as important elements of our political mandate. We take this opportunity to nominate for this year's Nobel Peace Prize the leader of the Catholic Church of East Timor, Bishop Carlos Ximenes Filipe Belo.

Throughout Indonesia's military occupation of East Timor, beginning in 1975, Bishop Belo has consistently stood beside the people of East Timor and raised his voice against the oppression which they suffer at the hands of the military and civil authorities. In February 1989 Bishop Belo sent to the United Nations Secretary General a letter in which he wrote that, "Indonesia says that the people of East Timor have already chosen integration, but the pepole of East Timor themselves have never been consulted." In this letter the Bsihop requested that a popular referendum be carried out under United Nations auspices to allow the people to fairly exercise their right of self-determination. This bold appeal by Bishop Belo was greeted with overwhelming support, not only by the people of East Timor, but by people of conscience throughout the world. However such appeals on behalf of his people have not endeared the Bishop to the Indonesian authorities, and in fact several attempts on his life have been made. Also, in order to discredit the Bishop and force the Bishop into resigning, the authorities have resorted to various insidious means, including forcing "confessions" under torture from young people, implicating the Bishop's involvemnet in their demonstrations and other peaceful pro-independence activities. (Recent testimonies attached)

We visited East Timor for the first time in August of last year after a half-year of negotiations with the indonesian Government and

were able to meet with Bishop Belo and learned from him the human rights situation of the people. It was by no means easy to realize this meeting, however. We had directly made an appointment with the Bishop by international telephone from Japan, but in Dili itself on the appointed day we were told by the Indonesian officials accompanying us that the Bishop "wasn't in." It was only after insisting in the strongest terms that we were allowed to meet Bishop Belo. The Bishop greeted us with a warm, relaxed smile, a smile that never left his face throughout our visit, yet his quiet demeanor notwithstanding, we came away with a feeling that here was a man strongly determined, in the midst of great difficulty, to see justice done for his people. When, for instance, we relayed Foreign Minister Alatas' criticism that the Bishop tended to "forget his religious activities," he replied in no uncertain terms: "I am not a politician, but I raise my voice on issues of human rights, corruption, injustice. What <u>is</u> political is trying to make the Church support integration." The Bishop reaffirmed to us his position on integration ("I cannot agree with integration in its present form") and his belief that all political groups should sit down at the negotiating table. He also told us of his hope that the Japanese Government would use its influence to the Indonesian Government to come to "an honorable solution."

We believe that the challenge of our post-Cold War society is to move from an order based on military might to one based on the rule of law. In order to achieve this it is necessary to establish a system in which the views of all the parties to a conflict, but particularly the parties who have no recourse to military power, can be reflected. The Indonesian Government, backed by enormous political and economic support from many of the world powers, has ignored flat the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the East Timor issue and has rejected calls for peace negotiations from the East Timorese resistance movement. Meanwhile, the people of East Timor, which until 1989 was completely cut off from access by foreigners and is still today aptly referred to as an "island prison" have eschewed the route of international terrorism to draw attention to their cause and have instead worked, together with international NGOs, to plead their case at the Human Rights Commission and other United Nations organizations. We believe that for this East Timorese people are to be highly commended.

We would be most grateful if you would take under review this nomination of Bishop Belo for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Sincerely yours,

Tomiko Okazaki

Rep. Tomiko Okazaki
(Japan Social Democratic Party)
Vice Minister of Education,
Science and Culture

Banri Kaieda

Rep. Banri Kaieda
(Minshu Shinto Club)

Seiichi Kaneda

Rep. Seiichi Kaneda
(Japan Social Democratic Party)

中馬弘毅

Rep. Kouki Chuma
(Liberal Democratic Party)

Yasuko Takemura

Sen. Yasuko Takemura 竹村泰子.
(Japan Social Democratic Party)

Conact: Diet Members Forum on East Timor
Room No.639 Members Building No.1, House of Representatives
2-2-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100 JAPAN
Tel.:81-3-3508-7149 / FAX :81-3-3592-9030